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Public meeting advisory: BPA required to build new power line to Canada

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, June 19, 1996

PR 36b 96

Public meetings will help determine where to locate the new transmission line BPA is proposing to build through Washington's Douglas and Okanogan counties to Oliver, British Columbia.

What: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to build a new transmission line from either Grand Coulee or Chief Joseph dam through Douglas and Okanogan counties. The approximately 90-mile line will extend to a point near Oliver, British Columbia. BPA and local governments will host a series of public meetings in July to discuss issues related to this proposal. BPA's first step is to identify possible corridors that the line could follow; public input will help identify the best routes.

Why: Under the 1964 Columbia River Treaty, BPA is responsible for fulfilling a U.S. obligation to return power to Canada by the year 2003. Since the Treaty doesn't specify exactly where the line will be constructed, BPA invites the public to comment on where the line should and should NOT go. When completed, the line will be capable of carrying between 1,200 to 1,500 megawatts of capacity and 550 to 600 average megawatts of energy.

Public Meetings: BPA is beginning to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposal. They need to hear from individuals and groups who may be interested in or affected by the proposal. On the dates and at the locations listed below, open house meetings will be from 4-8 p.m., with a presentation beginning at 7 p.m.:

Tues., July 9, 1996
Cedars Inn, Cedar Room
1 Apple Way
Okanogan, Wash.

Wed., July 10, 1996
Oroville Depot
12th & Ironwood
Oroville, Wash.

Thurs., July 11, 1996
Tonasket Senior Center
22 E. Fifth St.

Tonasket, Wash.

Tues., July 16, 1996

Grand Coulee Project Office
Admin. Bldg. Conf. Rm., Hwy. 155
Grand Coulee, Wash.

Wed., July 17, 1996

Brewster High School Library
503 S. Seventh St.
Brewster, Wash.

For public comments or questions, call BPA toll-free at 1-800-622-4519.

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For more information, contact Perry Gruber, plgruber@bpa.gov, 503-230-5359, or Mike Johns, BPA project manager, mcjohns@bpa.gov, 503-230-4602.
